

Listing of the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Canceled)

2. (Currently Amended) Isolated *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) having a growth rate that is at least 5% greater than the growth rate of *E. coli* MM294, wherein said isolated *E. coli* are resistant to infection by bacteriophage Wphi.

3. (Currently Amended) Isolated *E. coli* having a growth rate that is at least 5% greater than the growth rate of *E. coli* MM294, wherein said isolated *E. coli* are resistant to infection by bacteriophage Mu.

4. (Currently Amended) The isolated *E. coli* of claim 2, wherein said isolated *E. coli* additionally do not contain any detectable genetic material of one or more bacteriophage types selected from the group consisting of Mu, T1, T2, T3, T4, T5, T6 and T7.

5. (Currently Amended) The isolated *E. coli* of claim 4, wherein said isolated *E. coli* lack detectable levels of at least one endogenous plasmid.

6. (Currently Amended) The isolated *E. coli* of claim 2, wherein said isolated *E. coli* lack detectable levels of at least one endogenous plasmid.

7. (Currently Amended) The isolated *E. coli* of claim 3, wherein said isolated *E. coli* lack detectable levels of at least one endogenous plasmid.

8. (Currently Amended) The isolated *E. coli* of claim 4, wherein said isolated *E. coli* contain one or more genotype markers selected from the group consisting of: *recA*⁻, *lacZ*⁻, Δlon , *ompT*⁻, *endA1*, *rnaE*⁻, *rnaI*⁻, *hsdR17*(*rK*⁻, *mK*⁺), *hsdS20*(*rB*⁻, *mB*⁺), *merA*, *mcrB*, *mrr*, *deoR*, *supE* and *supF*.

9. (Currently Amended) The isolated *E. coli* of claim 4, wherein said isolated *E. coli* contain one or more genotype markers selected from the group consisting of: *recA1*, *recA13*, $\Delta recA$, *lacX74*, and *lacZ* Δ M15.

10. (Currently Amended) The isolated *E. coli* of claim 4, wherein said isolated *E. coli* contain an F' episome or portions thereof.

11. (Currently Amended) The isolated *E. coli* of claim 4, wherein said isolated *E. coli* have a growth rate that is at least 25% greater than the growth rate of *E. coli* MM294.

12. (Currently Amended) The isolated *E. coli* of claim 4, wherein said isolated *E. coli* have a growth rate that is at least 50% greater than the growth rate of *E. coli* MM294.

13. (Currently Amended) The isolated *E. coli* of claim 4, wherein said isolated *E. coli* have a growth rate that is at least 100% greater than the growth rate of *E. coli* MM294.

14. (Currently Amended) The isolated *E. coli* of claim 4, wherein said isolated *E. coli* are *E. coli* strain W or strain C.

15.-76. (Canceled).

77. (Currently Amended) A composition comprising *E. coli*, wherein the *E. coli* of said composition have a growth rate that is at least 5% greater than the growth rate of *E. coli* MM294, and wherein ~~said the~~ the *E. coli* of said composition is resistant to infection by bacteriophage Mu.

78. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 77 wherein ~~said the~~ the *E. coli* of said composition is JDP674 or ~~derivatives-progenies~~ thereof.

79. (Currently Amended) A composition comprising *E. coli*, wherein the *E. coli* of said composition have a growth rate that is at least 5% greater than the growth rate of *E.*

coli MM294, and wherein ~~said~~ the *E. coli* of said composition do not contain detectable levels of genetic material of bacteriophage Wphi.

80.-107. (Canceled).